

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate original claim 2, and certain parts of the description text (basis given from application as filed):-

'z)' is 'iii)' from page 9, lines 25 – page 10, line 2;

'laundry' from page 2, line 7;

'fluorescer' from page 36, line 22.

The claims have also been amended to obviate the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112. The amended claims recite metes and bounds of the invention clearly and definitely.

The amended claims distinguish more clearly over the cited art.

Claims 1-10 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Berger et al., US. 6,043,391. Berger discloses (in claims 1-4) an anionic compound comprising a sulfonated alkylaromatic compound. Also disclosed (at example 7) is an anionic surfactant composition comprising dialkylbenzene sulfonate and branched monoalkylbenzene sulfonic acid (example. Berger mentions textile detergents at column 2, line 53. Berger does not disclose the combination of alkylaromatic sulfonate in combination with a fluorescer. Amended claim 1 is hence novel over Berger et al.

Claims 1-5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by DE 1 234 708. The amended claim 1 differs from the aromatic sulfonic compound of DE '708 as the surfactant of DE '708 falls outside part y) of claim 1 (part ii of original claim 2), as it does not appear to disclose a sulfonated alkyl group. DE '708 instead discloses an sulfonated alkenoxy group attached to the aromatic group, i.e. instead of an alkyl chain as present in the current invention, the sulfonate group is

linked to the aromatic group by ethylene, propylene or butylene oxide (see examples 2 and 8-14; and R" on page 1, lines 21-22 which is H, Me or Et, which gives ethylene, propylene and butylene oxide respectively.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Nemeth et al., U.S. 3,528,923. Nemeth disclose a lime soap dispersant comprising an aromatic sulfonated surfactant, said dispersant can also comprise additional surfactants. The difference between Nemeth and the subject matter of amended claim 1 is at least that the aromatic sulfonate surfactants of Nemeth cannot fulfil the requirements of part z) of claim 1. This requires the sulphonate group to be substituent on a terminal carbon atom of the alkyl chain. In the compositions of Nemeth, the sulphonate group is present not on the terminal carbon, but alpha to the terminal carbon atom.

Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Suter et al., U.S. 2,366,133. This document discloses the condensation of olefin sulphonic acids with aromatic compounds. It does not disclose laundry compositions comprising the aromatic sulphonate group in combination with fluorescer and one or more additional ingredients. Furthermore, claims 1-5 of Suter show a general formula which is outside the definition of y) of amended claim 1. This requires the alkyl sulphonate group, which is attached to the aromatic group, to be between of 7 and 30 carbons. However the attached alkyl group of claims 1-5 of Suter can only possibly be at most 3 carbon atoms (when R' is methyl). Therefore amended claim 1 is novel over this reference.

Claims 1 and 10-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by WO 99/05243. Claim 2, which was not rejected over WO '243 has been incorporated into claim 1. Consequently, the rejection is considered to be moot.

With respect to the obviousness-type double-patenting rejection, in light of the availability of Terminal Disclaimer practice, applicants agree to the filing of the Terminal Disclaimer upon an indication of the allowable subject matter.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be allowed to issue.

If a telephone conversation would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of the present application, applicants' undersigned attorney invites the Examiner to telephone at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rimma Mitelman", is written over a horizontal line.

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